

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2010

**JUSTICE KILBRIDE TO RECEIVE 2010 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN
THE JUDICIARY FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE CRIME COMMISSION**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will be honored as the recipient of the 2010 Award of Excellence in the Judiciary from the Illinois State Crime Commission during its annual awards dinner program.

The 14th annual “Salute to Those Who Make a Difference” awards dinner will be held Tuesday, June 15 at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace starting at 6:30 p.m.

“The Award of Excellence in the Judiciary is being presented to the Honorable Justice Kilbride for his years of professionalism, integrity, and superior performance in the court system in Illinois,” said Michael Prueter, president of the Illinois State Crime Commission. “This award is the highest honor that the Illinois State Crime Commission can bestow on a person in the judiciary and we are honored to have a person such as Justice Kilbride receive this most distinguished award this year.”

The Illinois State Crime Commission, founded in 1994, developed into a growing not-for-profit organization committed to public safety and law enforcement. The commission’s goal is to offer insightful, creative legislative solutions and to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing crime through a unique blend of awareness and activities. The membership and board of directors comprise many of the state’s most influential leaders in government, law enforcement, education, labor, business and public policy.

Justice Kilbride, who grew up in Kankakee, received his B.A. degree *magna cum laude* from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in 1978; and his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington D.C. in 1981. While in law school, Justice Kilbride completed judicial internships for the administrative assistant to the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and for U.S. District Court Judge Joyce Hens Green.

Justice Kilbride was elected to the Supreme Court in November 2000 from the Third Judicial District. In December 2009, he was named Judge of the Year by the Illinois Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, an organization of civil trial lawyers comprised of an equal

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number of well-respected plaintiff and defense attorneys. In 2009, Justice Kilbride received an Honorary Doctorate of Letter in Humanities from Lewis University in Joliet and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Kilbride practiced law for 20 years in Rock Island, engaging in the general practice of law, including appeals, environmental law, labor law, employment matters and other general civil and criminal matters.

From 1981-1987, Justice Kilbride practiced as a Legal Aid attorney with Prairie State Services, which provides legal services to low-income clients on matters involving employment, housing, domestic violence, family law and federal benefits.

Justice Kilbride serves as the Court's liaison to several important Supreme Court committees and the Lawyers Trust Fund. He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association; past president of the Illinois Township Attorneys Association; and a past board member of the Illinois Pro Bono Center. For nearly two decades, he was a volunteer legal advisor to the Community Caring Conference; He also assisted the Quad-City Harvest, Inc.; the Children's Disability Project; and in organizing an interfaith coalition of church and community organizations in the Quad Cities area.

Justice Kilbride lives with his family in Rock Island. His parents, Leo and Colleen Kilbride, reside in Bourbonnais.

The Third Judicial District is comprised of 21 Illinois counties straddling Interstate 80 from Indiana to Iowa. Those counties are: Will, Iroquois, Kankakee, Grundy, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam, Bureau, Whiteside, Henry, Stark, Peoria, Fulton, Knox, Tazewell, Rock Island, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, Hancock and McDonough.